

**MINUTES  
SUATS POLICY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 @ 4:00 P.M.  
SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
(13 E. CANAL STREET, SUMTER)**

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairwoman Vivian McGhaney; Mayor Joseph T. McElveen; County Councilman Jimmy Byrd; State Representative J. David Weeks; Senator Phil Leventis; State Representative G. Murrell Smith; and Luke Rogers, County Transportation Committee Chairman

**STUDY TEAM MEMBER PRESENT:** Deron McCormick, City Manager; Al Harris, Assistant City Manager; Bill Noonan, Sumter County Administrator; Gary Hallmark, 20<sup>th</sup> SG/CC Shaw AFB; Tammy Hodge, SCDOT; Phil Nobles, SCDOT; W. Tyke Redfearn, SCDOT; Mark Pleasant, SCDOT Planning; Ann August, SWRTA; OJ Papucci, Santee-Lynches Regional COG; Shane Belcher, FHWA; Bener Amado, SCDOT

**OTHERS PRESENT:** See attachment

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** George McGregor, Planning Director; Charlie Holmes, Transportation Coordinator, Wanda Scott, Planning Secretary

A meeting of the Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study (SUATS) Policy Committee was held on Monday, September 13, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sumter County Council Chambers. Chairwoman Vivian McGhaney called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Mr. James Byrd made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Phil Leventis and carried unanimous vote.

Mr. James Byrd made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2010 minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Rep. J. David Weeks and carried a unanimous vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Charlie Holmes stated that Alice Drive Phase 3 is expected to begin in 2013 fairly close to the completion of Phases 1 and 2 next spring. Right of way for 32 of the 69 parcels has been acquired. As of now, all of the funding has been allocated for phase 3. One item that needs to be discussed is the Policy Committee's desire to see underground utilities. The application package has been sent in and Kimley-Horn has been hired to get a tight price. Bottom line, the

come up with the 20% match. The only funding source that has been identified is enhancement funds of approximately \$900,000. SUATS would have to come up with the 20% match.

Rep. David Weeks stated he has raised the issue at the last couple of meetings that if the enhancement money is used for the Alice Dr. project, as is being recommended, what would happen to other projects in other areas of the county. He stated he had received a copy of a list of enhancement projects that included S. Harvin and others and asked how does what is being recommended going to impact those other projects.

Mr. Holmes stated that the S. Harvin St. and Carter Rd. projects have been applied for. The County Sales Tax Committee has agreed to cover the match since both are extensions of other sales tax projects. The Harvin St. ties in with Red Bay Rd. and Newberry St. The other project we could use the sales tax for is for a 1,000 foot extension of Carter Rd. According to the latest figures we have from DOT, taking out the Harvin St. and Carter Rd. sidewalks, we have \$900,000 in enhancement funds that did not get used and of that amount, 20% is matched. That would get us started, but would leave us about \$561,000 short of completion cost and once again, 20 % is matched. If we could spread the project out over a couple of years, anticipating further funding of the enhancement program, it may be possible to make it all up then.

Rep. Weeks asked Mr. Holmes if he was prepared to make that recommendation for the committee to decide today whether the committee is going on record to endorse using the \$900,000 of Enhancement Funds for Alice Dr. project.

Mr. Holmes stated application could not be made until the 20% match has been identified. The application is ready to go when the match has been identified.

Ms. McGhaney asked what the possible funding sources that could be sought for matches were.

Mr. Holmes stated that the match had to be non-federal money. It will have to be either state money – but nobody at SCDOT has identified any funds – or local money. The match has to be identified before we can move forward. The project will be ready to move forward next year. The project should be shovel-ready by 2012.

Ms. McGhaney asked if anyone has sought an exact cost so that the committee could explore other sources that might be willing to help with this match.

Mr. Holmes said that on cost estimates, you want to try to keep them on the high side to prevent surprises later. He went on to state that about one million dollars is going to utilities.



Rep. Smith asked what the match would be for the \$900,000 for Alice Dr. and where the match came from for the sidewalk projects.

Mr. Holmes stated that the match would be \$180,000 with the entire cost being \$1.3 million. SUATS has \$900,000 in its account now. He went on to state the money for the sidewalks came from the Penny Sales Tax because S. Harvin and Carter Rd. were extensions of Sales Tax projects.

Mr. George McGregor stated that in March, Mr. Weeks asked if there was any chance to do both the Alice Dr. and the sidewalk projects. Staff has discovered that the Penny Sales Tax could be used as the match to do those two specific sidewalk projects. SUATS is still left with a very pointed decision. There is a series of enhancement projects for sidewalks identified that equal \$300,000 and a massive enhancement project (Alice Drive) that will take all of the enhancement funds. It will be very difficult to do both at this point. Mr. McGregor stated that absent cash locally, we can do neither project.

Rep. Smith stated that on the state level there is very little cash to go around and there is going to be less with federal funds too. He stated he is concerned about leveraging future enhancement money and thinks SUATS should deal with this realistically – use what money is available and go from there.

Mayor McElveen stated there is another way that may not be popular – reconsider the project as a five-lane project and save money there to make it a more usable road – something more suitable to what we are trying to build in the city. This is an area that gets to be residential in Phase 3 – I it would be just terrible to stop right now and build that like McCray's Mill Rd. was built. This should be the standard for all thoroughfares into the city.

Mr. Holmes stated that most of the money is going to Progress Energy.

After more discussion on the cost for the utilities, Sen. Leventis made a motion for a letter to be drafted to Progress Energy inviting them to meet with the SUATS Committee to discuss their participation with the enhancements. The motion was seconded by Rep. Smith and carried a unanimous vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Holmes stated the only new business for the committee to take care of was adding the Carter Rd. and S. Harvin St. sidewalk projects to the TIP. With no discussion, Mr. Jimmy Byrd made a motion to add the two projects to the current TIP. The motion was seconded by Rep. David Weeks and carried a unanimous vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Holmes gave an update on the Penny Sales Tax Projects.

Ms. Tammy Hodge stated that the repaving of Carter Rd. was let in July.

Ms. Ann August from SWRTA gave the following update:

- SWRTA received \$2.2 million under the ARRA and have purchased 20 new buses
- Renovations to the Pavilion Building – 100% complete
- Renovations to maintenance facility (new HVAC) – 80% complete

The money (\$2.2 million) was divided between rural and urban funding. Ms. August went on to state that SWRTA is working with Mr. Sammy Way in reference to a military museum. The grand opening is on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. August stated SWRTA has a contract with Santee Lynches COG to work together on transportation planning and part of that includes surveying of all of their customers, those not serviced at this time, and those hoped to service in the future. Twenty-two students were employed to help with that. The draft report is complete. SWRTA is looking at revamping the current routes.

With no further discussion, Rep. David Weeks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jimmy Byrd.

Respectfully submitted,

*Wanda F. Scott*

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Board Secretary

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